

EPA, Army Corps of Engineers Commit to Restoring Degraded Urban Rivers

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing them to a partnership for restoration of degraded urban rivers. As part of this agreement, EPA and the Corps will jointly select eight demonstration pilot projects over the next 12 months.

In partnership with state and local governments, tribal authorities and private organizations, the projects will focus on water quality improvement, cleanup of contaminated sediments and human and animal habitat restoration. The projects will demonstrate how coordinated government and private sector efforts can not only restore contaminated rivers but also revitalize urban environments.

The MOU aims to better coordinate hazardous waste cleanup, water quality improvements and environmental restoration activities under the Clean Water Act, Superfund, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the various Water Resources Development Act authorities. (The Water Resources Development Act is a federal statute that addresses watershed environmental restoration activities under the authority of the Army Corps of Engineers.)

For more information on the MOU, contact EPA's Stephen Luftig, Senior Advisor for Land Reuse, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 703-603-9931 (luftig.steve@epa.gov) or Patricia Rivers, Chief, Environmental Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 202-761-0858.